Slashing of prices of essential drugs by companies

†292. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drugs manufacturer companies in the country have offered Government to slash prices of 354 essential drugs;

(b) if so, the facts regarding thereto and whether certain conditions have also been attached with this offer; and

(c) if so, details of these conditions alongwith the names of these 354 essential drugs and the price percentage of every drug that has been offered to be slashed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) A Joint Committee with majority of the members from the drug industry has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (C&PC) to suggest various initiatives for making available medicines (including medicines in National List of Essential Medicines - 2003) to common man at reasonable prices.

No concrete offer on price reduction of essential medicines under National List of Essential Medicines - 2003 has been made by the Joint Committee.

The drug policies of the Government as amended from time to time are directed towards making available quality drugs at reasonable prices to the consumers in the country.

Reduction of medicine prices

293. DR. **M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cut down the prices of about 886 medicines;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that these drugs/medicines are seldom prescribed by doctors due to their ineffectiveness; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to contain or fix the prices of branded drugs/medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Pharma companies have agreed to voluntarily restrict the trade margins for generic medicines to 15% for wholesalers and 35% for retailers. A compilation of the list of 886 such medicines, whose prices have been voluntarily reduced by 11 companies as a result of this cap on trade margins has been brought out. The list is available on this Department's Website www.chemicals .gov.in. It covers formulations in all dosage forms such as tablets, capsules and syrups, etc. which find usage in the treatment of a large number of diseases. The medicines covered are anti diabetics, antibiotics, cough syrups, painkillers as well as those used during the surgical operations, for the cure of the infectious diseases and for the treatment of hypertension etc.

The drug policies of the Government as amended from time to time are directed towards making available quality drugs at reasonable prices to the consumers in the country.

Export of rice intended for BPL and rationing

†294. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILATIRIYA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment are aware of the fact that the rice being provided for ration and BPL consumers by Government, is being procured and exported by the traders;

(b) whether it is a fact that Kutch Civil Supply Department has recovered

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi,